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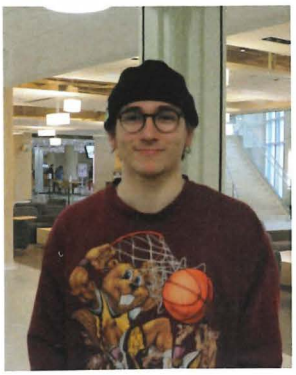

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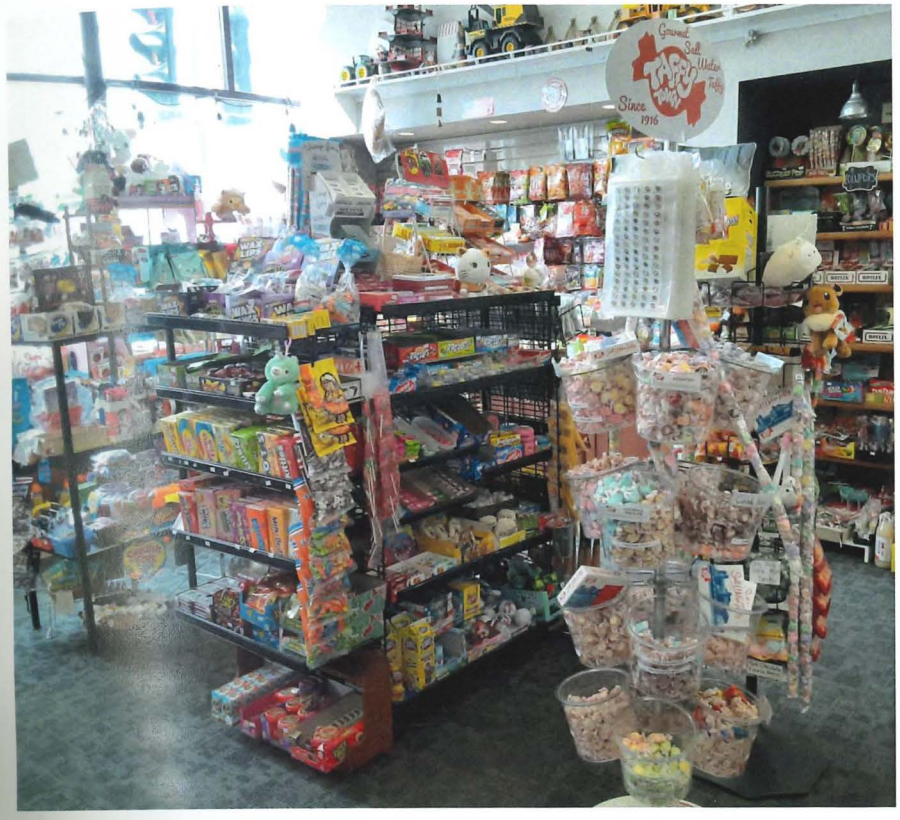
GET YOUR SWEETS AND TREATS AT C&J CANDY SHOP

ROBERT TIMMLER

ROBERT TIMMLER/STOUTONIA

C&J Candy Shop is the local family-owned candy and ice cream shop located here in Menomonie. C&J Candy Shop is owned by Barbara Baner-Chen and John Chen. Baner-Chen said, "I grew up in Minnesota and then joined the Navy. John went to college then joined the Navy. We both met while serving in the Navy." Baner-Chen explained, "After retiring from the Navy, I went overseas. Later, we bought the building and closed on it when Wisconsin shut down due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. I thought that it would be something fun to do during the weekend."

"In May 2020, we fixed up the building's plumbing and other building maintenance," Baner-Chen stated," June and July, we decided to open the store, so we had to buy candy, gather shelves, set up the shop." C&J Candy Shop opened July 17, 2020, which Baner-Chen exclaimed, "We didn't do any advertising, I didn't tell many people about the shop, but customers still came in every day, even on days that we were closed. Baner-Chen elaborated, "Customers would be standing outside the shop and sometimes we would let them in because it's good for business, especially parents with kids because no one wants to see a sad kid. That's when we decide to open the shop six days in August 2020." From there, C&J Candy Shop expanded out in January 2021. Baner-Chen exclaimed, "Having the extra room has made it easier for customers to explore all the candy."



ROBERT TIMMLER/STOUTONIA

ROBERT TIMMLER/STOUTONIA

In addition to selling well-known candy, C&J Candy Shop also sells candies, sodas and other treats from around the world. "When in the military we were overseas. Being overseas gave us the knowledge of the candy. We know that there was good stuff overseas. Customers have been instrumental in informing on the different foreign candy," Baner-Chen narrated. "There's a popular demand for foreign candy," Baner-Chen exclaimed. Baner-Chen recounted, "Sometimes we buy from retail, but we mostly work with distributors for a cheaper price compared to buying from retail. Sometimes we can get them directly from the factory."

C&J Candy Shop also has a wide selection of sodas that range from local to international. "People asked for the sodas, so we got a mix of international soda flavors as well as some local soda from the Sprecher Brewing Co, "Baner-Chen disclosed. Baner-Chen commented, "People love local, which is why we got a bunch of Sprecher products." Baner-Chen revealed, "People would try the sodas out of curiosity with some people enjoying the soda or don't like one soda and try another." "I have to order 10 cases at a time, so it's great that the sodas are as popular as they are," Baner-Chen commented, "If something works, go with it."

While the Candy Shop took off, C&J decided to add ice cream. "We added ice cream back in March. Customers said that you guys should get ice cream. Then other customers started saying it. I learned from my realtor business that you always listen to your customer," Baner-Chen declared. "We were

ROBERT TIMMLER/STOUTONIA

ROBERT TIMMLER/STOUTONIA

ROBERT TIMMLER/STOUTONIA

cautious at first because there are two other places in town that also do ice cream, but customers really wanted it, so we listened to our customers and got it."

A shop's setup is very important when it comes to organization and making it easier for customers to find what they're looking for. Baner-Chen demonstrated, "The Carmel area has all the caramel candies. The Chocolate candies are nearby the counter so that they don't melt in the sun. After that, there is the cherry section, the lollipops, and so on." Baner-Chen mentioned, "When we first opened the shop, we were spending too much time walking around the shop looking for something that the customer wanted, only to be passing by it several times. Therefore, setting up the sections has made it easier for us and our customers." Baner-Chen answered, "Having the themes helps customers find their favorite candies with ease."

Opening the shop during the pandemic is hard, especially for small family-owned businesses. Baner-Chen said, "When the pandemic was still going on, we placed x's on the floor to try and space people out, but the original space was too small for the number of people that were coming in." Baner-Chen clarified, "We left it up to the customers to police themselves, and if they thought the shop had too many people in it, they could come in later." Furthermore, Baner-Chen remarked, "I would sometimes open the store for customers that asked to come in before tons of people came in, as well as curbside pick-up."

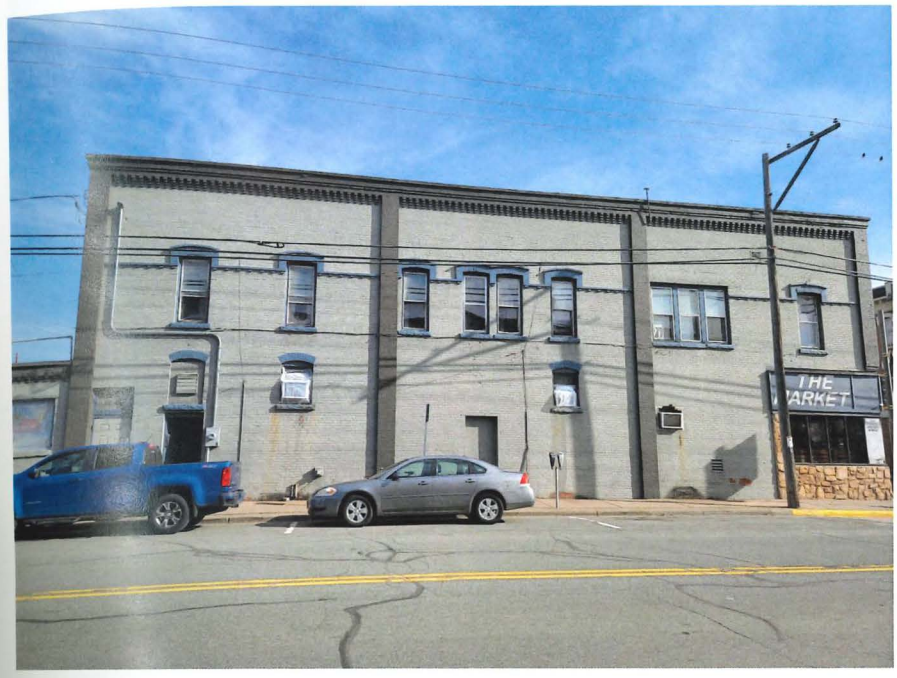
While the pandemic has shifted back and forth, the worker shortage has hit many businesses big and small for the last year. Baner-Chen describes, "It's a lot of work, and right now it's a challenge with the employee shortage."

C&J Candy Shop is a unique store with its blend of not only popular name brand candies, but also candies and sweets from other countries that are hard to find anywhere else in America. C&J Candy Shop is a great experience that not only widens people's knowledge of sweets from around the world but also allows people to educate C&J on what other candies or sweet treats they should search out.•

ROBERT TIMMLER/STOUTONIA

MENOMONIE HOUSING SITUATION

NICHOLAS BAUMANN



NICHOLAS BAUMANN/STOUTONIA

NICHOLAS BAUMANN/STOUTONIA

If you've been around Menomonie, or have lived here for any length of time, then you more than likely have noticed the rough shape of neighborhoods around campus. It's no secret that much of South Menomonie consists of rentals aimed at college students, stretching from Wilson Park to "Stout Village" behind Kwik Trip on Broadway. Much of this housing takes on a very decrepit look. Many community members have voiced their concerns about the poor look of houses in South Menomonie, with it even becoming a topic of debate in the Mayoral election on April 5th. However, what are the houses actually like? We've had interviews with a handful of students and longtime community members to delve into the actual state of the Stout rentals.

The first person interviewed was Derek, a Menomonie native who's been in the area his whole life. Now a junior Stout student, he has been renting apartments for about two years now.

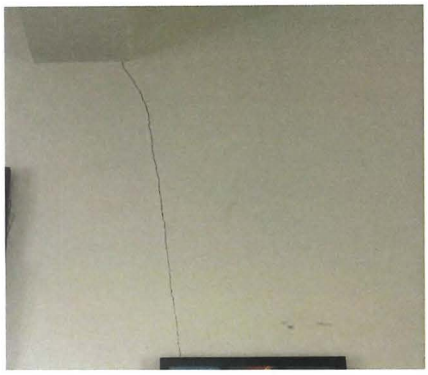
"The houses and apartments are really crappy; anyone can see that. The interior definitely matches the exterior on most of these places. But that's what you get in a college town." Derek stated.

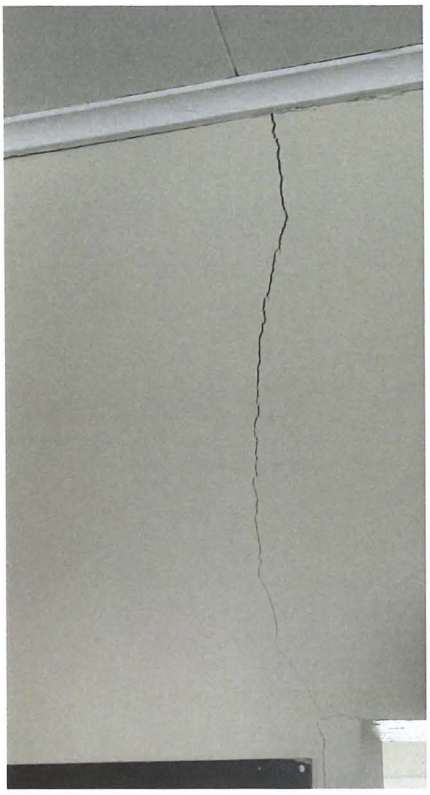
Derek, as previously stated, has rented for two years now, and has been in two different apartments by himself. However, he grew up moving from apartment to apartment with his parents as well, so he's well acquainted with the renting lifestyle. He has lived in an apartment on Main Street, as well as a house on 11th Avenue. Derek went on to discuss his thoughts on the condition of rentals,

"The big thing I feel driving the houses to look like crap is that, to the landlords, there's no need to improve or upkeep them, there's always going to be college students renting, and many of them don't have the experience or spine to stand up and point out issues for them to change. It's just a constant repetition of "Well, who cares, they just need a place to stay" and that's frustrating for students as well as locals"

Derek said he's been in apartments that have had barely installed windows, doors that haven't locked, Styrofoam walls, no insulation, and more. "The outside should serve as a warning for code violations on the inside as well" he stated.

We interviewed another local, Logan, who has also been in rentals for much of his life.





Logan grew up often near or within low-income areas, and he discussed the continued deterioration of rentals since his childhood. While starting out in Birch Terrace, and then moving to Northside, and then back to Southside, Logan remarked at the gradual decline of quality in the places near where he lived,

"After we went back to Southside, we were in a very rough part of town. The apartments weren't terrible, but it was more so the surrounding area. There was a lot of alcoholics around, there was I think two sex offenders as well. There was a guy who got stabbed with a knife, a bunch of muggings, and even a hostage situation they had to call in the SWAT for also. Behind us was worse as there was always drug issues, and people stealing from cars and such, all of this stuff happening within the span of only 3 or so years".

Not only has there been a record of rentals being rough, but the surrounding areas have been as well. However, the recent Mayoral race in Menomonie has one candidate, Ashley Asher, proposing possible solutions. When asked about why there might be a call for solutions to the poor rentals, Logan and Derek answered similarly. They both stated that as long as they have been here, those living in the cruddier rentals have never really complained. "They've just kinda accepted it as the way things are when you live in those areas" stated Logan. They couldn't think as to why locals might be concerned, but they also stated that they don't know everyone.

We took the time to shoot emails requesting comments from American Edge Real Estate, Olsen Property Rentals, Fox Borrow, Sunny Days management, and various private renters who we will keep anonymous for their privacy. We did not receive word back from Olsen, Fox Borrow, or Sunny Days. American Edge simply stated that "We take absolute care in ensuring that our rentals are the best quality for our renters. We always have ways renters can make maintenance requests where they can report any issues with apartments". However, they did not have a response to the outdated interiors or exteriors of their properties. Out of four private renters, we only got a response from one. The owner responded, "While we are aware of the poor conditions of some of the exteriors, there's not exactly a lot of need to fix them", they go on to say, "As long as the inside is clean, safe, and secure, we go forward with renting out the space".

While it seems largely that the rental companies and owners

lack the ambition to improve housing conditions, we asked our interviewees what they would suggest, or other issues they've noticed. Logan suggested this,

"I think to fix it, there should be harsher punishments for those who don't keep up with the issues in their rentals, there should be an ordinance from the city that requires them to keep their properties up to code, and that should be enforced. There have been times where I have been to showings and the radiators weren't connected to the walls, and the tenants had space heaters, leaving me to think they didn't have proper heat. Other places I've had black mold, and I needed to call the City Building Inspectors in order to get my landlord to fix it, and it still took two weeks."

Alexia, another interviewee, agreed with Logan's statement, and commented on the rent hikes as well,

"I understand there have been just normal increases in rent, but the issue is in what I'm paying vs what I'm renting. What used to be a studio with everything included and modern appliances for 650 a month, is now a studio with nothing included and outdated everything with shabby windows for over $1,000 a month. Add that on top of the fact that a lot of houses in Stout village haven't been majorly upgraded or kept up since the 70s or 80s, and it's a nasty combination. Like, your heat better be included if the electric heat hasn't been upgraded since the 80s".

The condition of rentals in Menomonie is a complex situation after our interviews and research. It's fixing the rentals and making sure they're up to code, it's electing officials who care enough to change things, it's improving crime rates and making places safer, and it's holding City officials accountable for what seems to be a lack of proper inspections and enforcement of code. While we here at Stoutonia can only advise our readers and potential renters to make sure you do your research, and don't be afraid to let your landlords know of any issues. Perhaps if Ms. Asher wins the Mayoral race there could be changes, but who's to say. In the end, Menomonie has been particularly hard hit by increasing rent costs, poorer housing, and a lack of insight from city officials. It's hard to say what the future holds for the improvement of rental conditions in Menomonie.•

**Photo contributor names and interviewee last names have been left out for their anonymity and privacy.

STOUTONIA 2022 SPRING DEPARTURES

LOGAN GLASER

Questions asked to those departing:

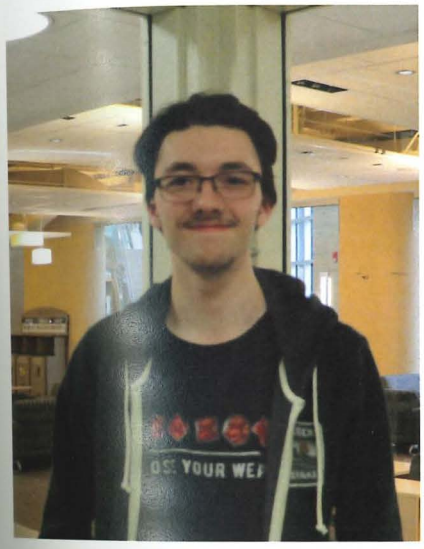
1. What was your favorite moment being a part of Stoutonia?
2. What advice would you say to new members joining Stoutonia?
3. What are your plans now that you're leaving Stoutonia?

ISABEL ROBERTS
PRODUCTION MANAGER &
LAYOUT DESIGNER

1. My favorite part of being in Stoutonia has been my experience this last year. Brody and I worked really hard to bring the team from the lowest it's ever been, at 4 people to a full staff now of 22 awesome people. Being a part of all the growth and change Stoutonia has gone through in the last four years has been my favorite part. I feel confident in leaving because I know our talented team will do great things!

2. My biggest advice to new members joining Stoutonia would be to always share your ideas! No idea is too small, and even if it might seem dumb to you- it will often end up sparking an idea for someone else which could turn into something great! I would also say, don't be afraid to move up. Taking on a leadership role might seem scary, but it'll end up being a great learning experience.

3. My plans now that I'm leaving Stoutonia are to put all of my energy into my final graphic design classes now that I'm going into my last year of school. I'll also be focusing on applying for jobs, so I can hopefully get something lined up before graduation!

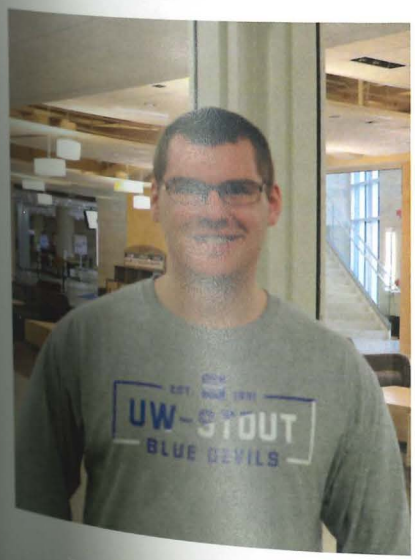


BRODY PIERCE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

1. One of my favorite moments while working at Stoutonia was when I did an article on one of the Senior SGX projects. It was cool to see behind the scenes of the process and talk to the people creating the games. It even got featured and used as the Cover for one of our issues. The overall experience was awesome.

2. Talk to people! Not just people in your major but those in other majors, too. Ask them questions about their work and you get to learn a little more about them and learn new things in the process.

3. My plans now are to disappear into the Ether and hopefully find a job in UX or Technical Writing that will allow me to interact with new people and support my hobbies.



ROBERT TIMMLER
STAFF WRITER

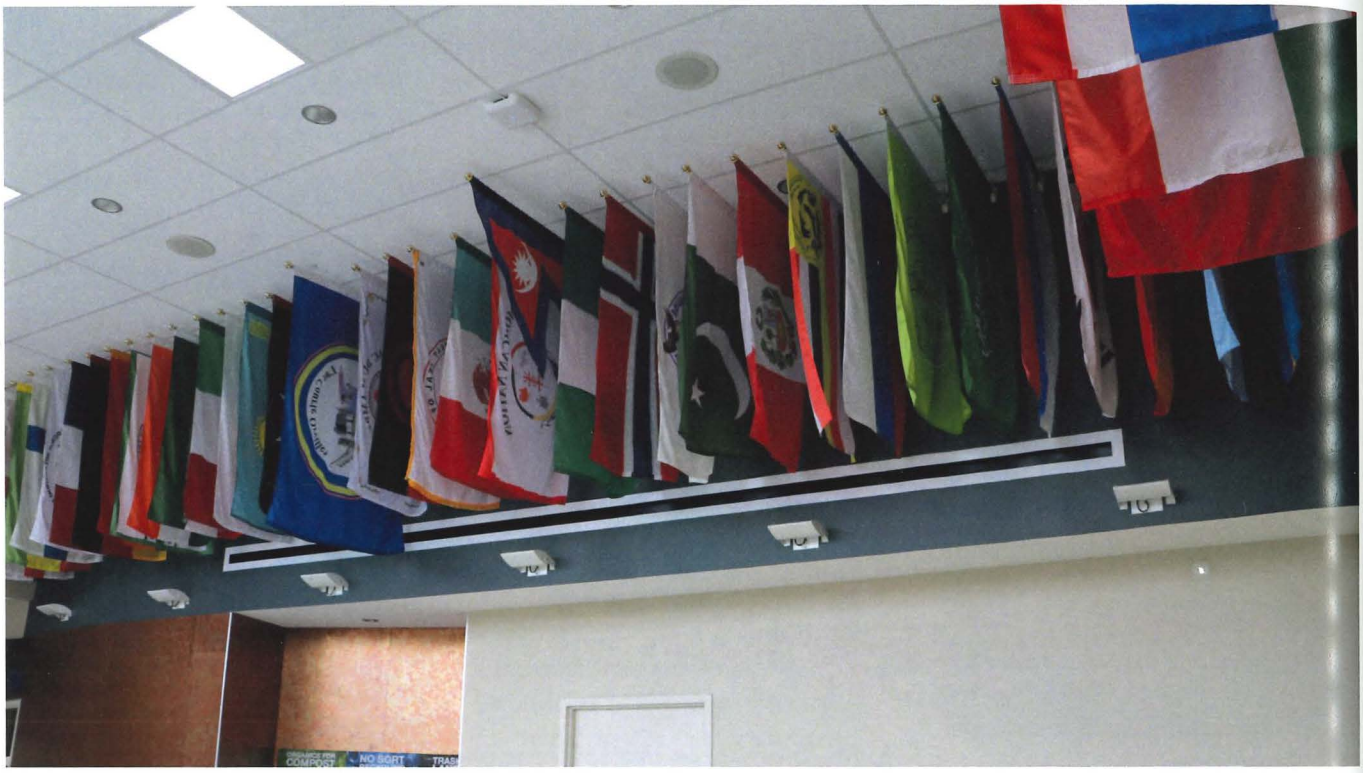
1. My favorite moment of being a part of Stoutonia was the opportunity to write movie reviews which is something I love to do.

2. Advice that I would give to new members joining Stoutonia is to have fun with the club but also know that there are responsibilities that one must uphold as a Stoutonia member.

3. I plan on getting a job in the print industry as either a prepress operator or a customer service representative.

THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT'S EXPERIENCE AT STOUT

TREYTON ACKERMAN



CARSON KOEHNEN/STOUTONIA

UW-Stout is home to over 170 students from more than 40 different nations all around the world. While some are here on a temporary exchange program, most international students are here to earn a full four-year degree. In the time that they're here, they're earning that degree, but they're also experiencing everything in between, the full spectrum of what Menomonie, and America as a whole, has to offer. It can be intimidating to move to a foreign country away from your friends, family, and everything that you've known as home; but in that courageous endeavor, a rich culture and new community of people to engage with opens up, ready to become whatever you make of it.

To help aid in this transition, the office of international education works to make sure that these students receive the guidance they need. Danielle Clarizio is the assistant director of international student and scholar services. Her job is assisting students in just about everything they do, to make sure their experience is as smooth as can be. Since her responsibilities are so varied, every day is different, but one thing remains the same. The work she does is invaluable for the international population, as multiple students expressed to me just how much she helps.

One student, Jennifer Dube, a first-year student from Zimbabwe, had this to say about the faculty at stout. "The professors really care about you, how you enjoy the class, and how you're progressing. I really like the guidance the professors give, and I absolutely adore Danielle in the international office. Her weekly emails alone get me through the week. I never feel out of place because I know what's going on." Having this welcoming, helpful community at Stout is part of what makes it so easy to get involved and find your place. Nilu Umarova is a shining example of this.

UW-STOUT ONLINE/CONTRIBUTED

Nilu is a graduating senior from Tajikistan, and she is probably more involved than 99% of stout students. She is a student ambassador, former president of the international club, and has done extensive volunteer work in Menomonie, all while double majoring in HRTM and REPM. Nilu said that "being involved helped me to become the leader I've always wanted to be. It gave me experiences I couldn't have otherwise. I made friends, became closer to my faculty, and it gave me a sense of purpose, making me feel welcomed into the Stout community. I learned how to be an effective leader by having to lead by example, and from the heart, at both the jobs I work at and the clubs I am a part of."

Finding that sense of belonging by getting involved in the Stout and Menomonie community is one of the best things you can do for yourself, and that goes for all students. With over 150 student organizations, you can try things out and see what sticks. Especially now that covid restrictions are easing up, there is no reason to not try new things. Danielle had this to say about it: "The last couple years have trained us all to not engage the same way. people aren't as comfortable connecting or going into open spaces. What I'd really like to see happen going forward, for not just international students, but all students, is to get back to engaging with one another. It's really easy to stay in our bubbles, but we have this great opportunity here to engage with people from all sorts of different places and cultural backgrounds, and I think it would be a real shame if we didn't learn from these last two years and to start rebuilding those connections now that restrictions are more relaxed."

When it comes to building those connections, Sander Solsvik spoke pretty candidly about it. Sander came from Norway in August 2020 to study Computer Networking & Information Technology at Stout, and he felt that "The engagement activities could've been better. That first month here was pretty lonely. At one point though, everyone in my cube was out in the hall and talking together, and that's the group I've been with since." Reflecting on the past two years, Sander said "I don't regret it. I love it here. It's a good deal too, you get books and computers. The climate here is great, most people don't like winters, but I love it."

Some of the richest connections we can have are those with people who are of a different cultural background. Bucky, a freshman in his second semester from Vietnam, said that his "international friends are all different in some way, they are friendly and interesting, as they all bring different knowledge. My American friends are very open, very helpful, and very truthful. they consider me as a brother." Continuing, he noted how his transition here was made pretty easy, as he told me how he thinks he was "very lucky that I had a lot of fun when I first came here. The first few months I barely had any negative emotions. I came here with other international students, and we hung out a lot together, and we discovered the city together." We are all just students studying for a degree at Stout, no matter where we are from. Our differences should be celebrated, and we should put in effort to get to know one another. Just because someone is from a different place, doesn't make them different, and we can all learn something from everybody. So what should we take away from all this? Sander summed it up perfectly:

> **"Go exchange! Go places. For real. That's my recommendation for Americans. It's so worth it. Having that experience is life changing. And say hi! If you see someone in the lounge, just talk to them! Be open."**

STOUT STUDENTS GO NUTS FOR SQUIRRELS

FAITH HUEY

Squirrels seem to be everywhere all year round here on campus. Whether you're walking to class or taking a leisurely stroll, it's a given that everyone has seen plenty of them scurrying around. With the large squirrel population comes a rather interesting influence on the students here at Stout. As a result, several developments have taken place revolving around these beloved squirrels, including the success of the Instagram page, @uw_stoutsquirrels, and the recently created club, Squirrel Scouts.

Taking a look at these squirrel-related happenings, it's clear that students are more than aware of the squirrels, but rather, are very interested in them. Some would even say that these fuzzy little animals hold an even deeper significance on campus by bringing students together.

This is one of the reasons and inspirations as to why the club Squirrel Scouts was created. The president of the club, Riley Dombrowski, gave a little bit of insight behind the idea and creation of the newly founded association.

"The idea for Squirrel Scouts started off as a little bit of a joke. We thought, "Haha, how funny would it be to have a club for something silly like this?" But the more we joked about it, the better the idea started to sound, and it shifted from just a silly thought to something we felt like we could actually pull off and have fun with!" Dombrowski said.

This new club's goal is to create a fun and laid back club with a common point of interest for all Stout students to unite with. They plan to create an annual magazine in which members can submit their creations to be published and distributed in, all themed around the campus squirrel population.

"We welcome any kind of media to give people a lot of creative freedom with what they do," Dombrowski said. "Photography, artwork, crafts, you name it!"

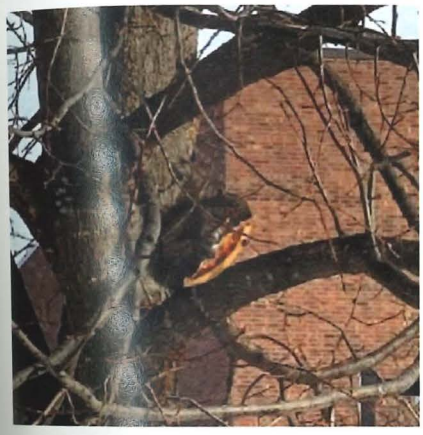
Dombrowski also mentioned the club's interest in hosting Squirrel Scouts craft events on campus in order to get more media for the magazine, but also to create a fun event for students to participate in. He also mentions how they are always open to suggestions for pages in the magazine, recommendations for craft nights, and any other ideas that people may have for the club.

"We really hope that the club can be something exciting for the students, whether they want to participate or just pick up a magazine to look through," Dombrowski said. "Our club will be low commitment so anyone can do as much or as little as they'd like and have the most fun with it!"

In another squirrel-related event, many students have also

All photographs are from the Stout Squirrel's Instagram page. Follow them for more fun squirrel content!

@UW_STOUTSQUIRRELS



taken notice of the recently created Instagram page, @uw_stoutsquirrels. The account's earliest post dates back to the end of 2021, and since then has acquired over 700 followers. Its recent success has even developed into the page creating Stout squirrel merch after many students expressed interest in it.

The main purpose of the account is to show Stout pride by posting pictures and videos of UW-Stout squirrels that are submitted by Stout students. Students can DM the account with their pictures or videos for the opportunity of them being featured on the page.

The owner of the account is a Stout student with a passion for squirrels, or more specifically, the squirrels here on campus. They mentioned how the idea to start the Instagram account came about when they were frequently texting pictures of the squirrels on campus to their friends. After some time, their friends convinced them to finally go through with the idea of creating an account based off of the squirrels, and the rest is history.

"I was not expecting how many people would be DMing me their own squirrel pictures, and it makes me so happy that people love these campus squirrels as much as I do," the account owner said. "I feel like this account has been a great way to give everyone a laugh and something on campus to be proud of!"

The owner of the account also mentioned how they had no idea how quickly the Instagram page would grow, but that they love how students are able to bond over these little critters.

"My favorite part of running this account is knowing that UW-Stout students now have an incentive to take funny pictures of squirrels," the account owner added. "Imagining someone stopping on their way to class to take a video of a squirrel is frickin hilarious."

It is true that many students have taken an interest in these squirrels at least a few times, and seeing these developments definitely proves that. What's more, it's become clear that not only can these squirrels be cute and entertaining, but they can also be a way for students to bond and relate to each other through a common interest. •

SPRING BREAK 2022

BREANNA REINHART

UNSPLASH.COM/CONTRIBUTED

Last year, students and professors were left upset after Spring Breaks cancellation. Typically, Spring Break is a time for everyone to recharge. It allows students and professors to decompress mentally, have some fun, and find relief in these challenging times.

After interviewing several students and professors about this year's Spring Break and last year's lack of, there was a common theme. Having Spring Break is extremely beneficial to everyone. Multiple students mentioned the toll last year's Spring Break cancellation took on their mental health.

"Last year I felt drained without Spring Break. It was nice to be able to have a week off this year," said Hotel Management major Kiley Lehman.

Lehman was able to relax in Cancun, Mexico over break enjoying time with her family. "I got to spend time with my entire family and that doesn't happen very often anymore," said Lehman.

Similar to Lehman, Professional Communication and Emerging media major Gracyn Leukam explained how grateful she was for a Spring Break this year. "Last year was tough because I'm definitely someone who is affected by my environment. Having to stay in the same place for too long makes me feel restless. I am so grateful I was able to go on a trip this year," said Leukam.

This year Leukam traveled to San Francisco, California.

"It went amazing! My mom and I were able to visit Alcatraz Island, the Golden Gate Bridge, Muir Woods National Monument, and my friend who goes to school in Santa Clara," said Leukam.

Leukam felt refreshed after a much needed week off.

Although many students chose to travel out of the state for this year's Spring Break, others found peace simply relaxing on campus.

Package Engineering major Bradley Reinhart stayed in Menomonie over break. "My break went well as it was very laid back. I continued to work part time and then went hiking on most of my free time. Without a break last year, the school year seemed to drag on. Having a break gives students a little time to relax and enjoy the warming weather," said Reinhart.

Like Reinhart, undeclared major Rachel Jackson spent her break working on campus as well. "Over break I stayed in Menomonie to work and then went home for the weekend. It went really well. I made some extra money and got to see my family. Last year I burnt out faster without a break. It was so much pressure along with being on the track team to keep up with everything. There was no time to relax," said Jackson.

A significant number of students were upset with no Spring Break

last year, but one student saw the cancellation in a different light.

Construction major Alex Stuckert said he was not affected by the lack of spring break last year. "Not having spring break was worth it because the lack of spending money and getting out of school earlier," said Stuckert.

Although Stuckert was okay without a break last year, he was also grateful to receive one this year. "This year I went to Scottsdale, Arizona. It was a blast because I spent it with the people I love, great weather, lots of good drinks, and food in a new place," said Stuckart.

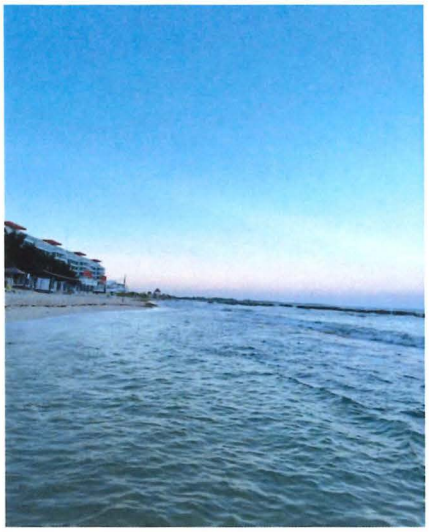
Along with most students' opinions, professors are also grateful for Spring Break as well."Missing a few years of spring break travel has really shown us how we have to be willing to jump at opportunities when they come up," said Professional Communication professor, Dr. Roberts Edenborg.

Roberts Edenborg was able to enjoy Spring Break in New York City. She experienced many tourists' things, two shows and the St. Patrick's Day parade.

Altogether, both students and professors were able to benefit from having a Spring Break. Last year's lack of Spring Break made everyone appreciate this year's break a little more.•

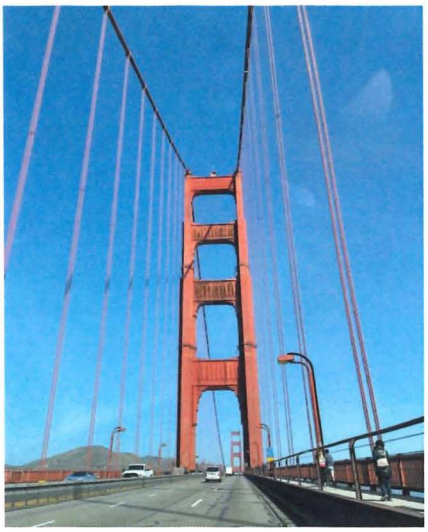
WHERE STUDENTS SPENT THEIR SPRING BREAK

KILEY LEHMAN
CANCUN, MEXICO



KILEY LEHMAN/**CONTRIBUTED**

GRACYN LEUKAM
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA



GRACYN LEUKAM/**CONTRIBUTED**

RACHEL JACKSON
RAW DEAL, MENOMONIE, WI

RAW DEAL/**CONTRIBUTED**

BRADLEY REINHART
MENOMONIE, WISCONSIN

EXPLORE MENOMONIE/**CONTRIBUTED**

DR. ROBERTS EDENBORG
NEW YORK CITY, NY

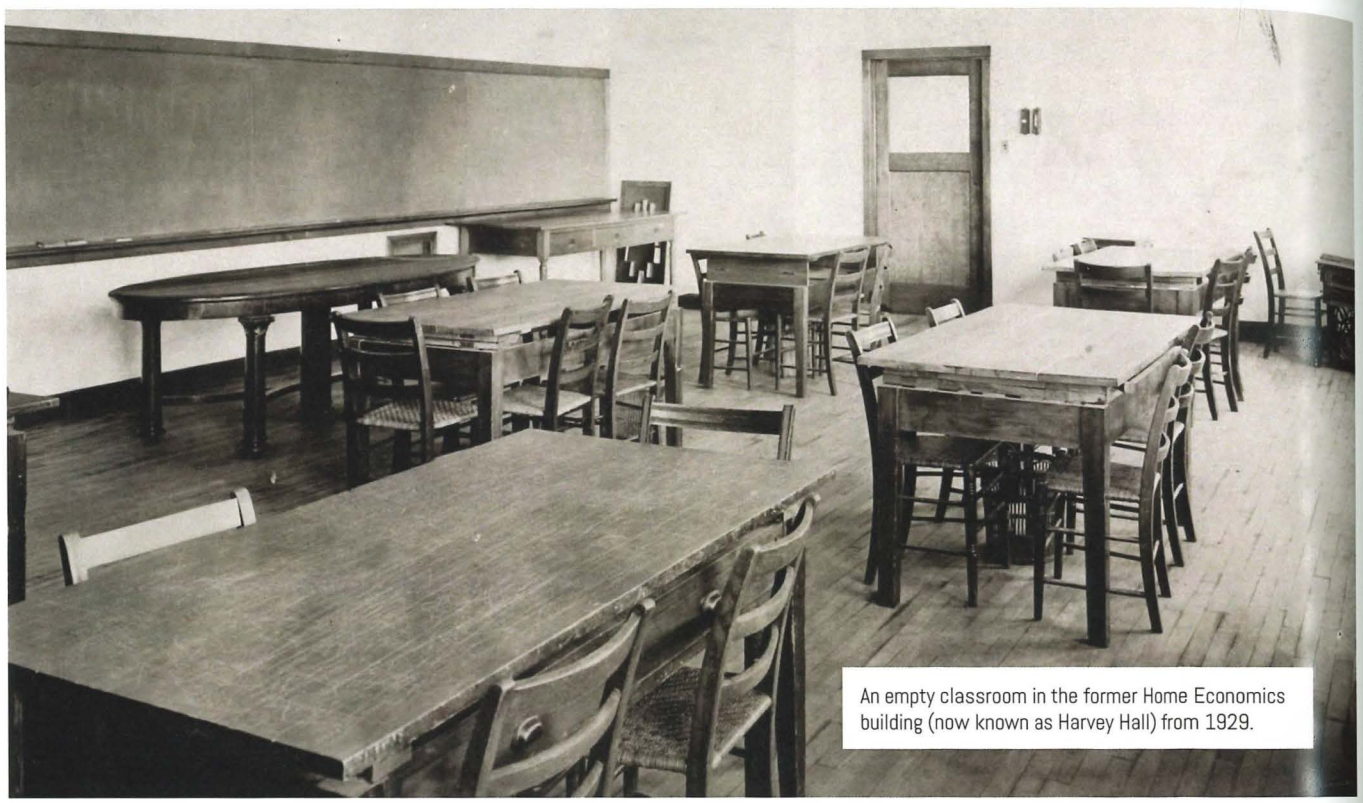
UNSPLASH.COM/**CONTRIBUTED**

ALEX STUCKART
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA

UNSPLASH.COM/**CONTRIBUTED**

STRANGE STOUT: THEN AND NOW

ERIN CHEVALIER



UW-STOUT ARCHIVES/CONTRIBUTED

An empty classroom in the former Home Economics building (now known as Harvey Hall) from 1929.

UW-Stout is a home to history, with the oldest building on campus, Bowman Hall, originally built in the 19th century, and over those long 131 years of history, it seems shadows have found the opportunity to slip inside the nooks and crannies of campus and tuck themselves away, creeping out on dark nights and lonely afternoons.

Stout is no stranger to paranormal activity. Many personal experiences of staff and students have been documented, and rumors of hauntings and supernatural encounters float around the student body and have been passed down from class to class, generation to generation of Stout students for years.

Popular hotspots for paranormal experiences, according to rumors and personal experiences of the Stout population, the basement of CTK (where students report to hear weird noises and sense a presence), and of course the infamous JTC, where students have been reporting their odd experiences for decades. There are even some archived Stoutonia articles that reported on odd happenings around campus.

One such article, dating back to the 80s and written by Deb Huziak, reports on two roommates' experiences in their shared room in JTC. They talked about a presence that they dubbed "George" manifesting itself as an odd "orange light" that would flash in strange shapes at odd hours of the night, as well as items disappearing.

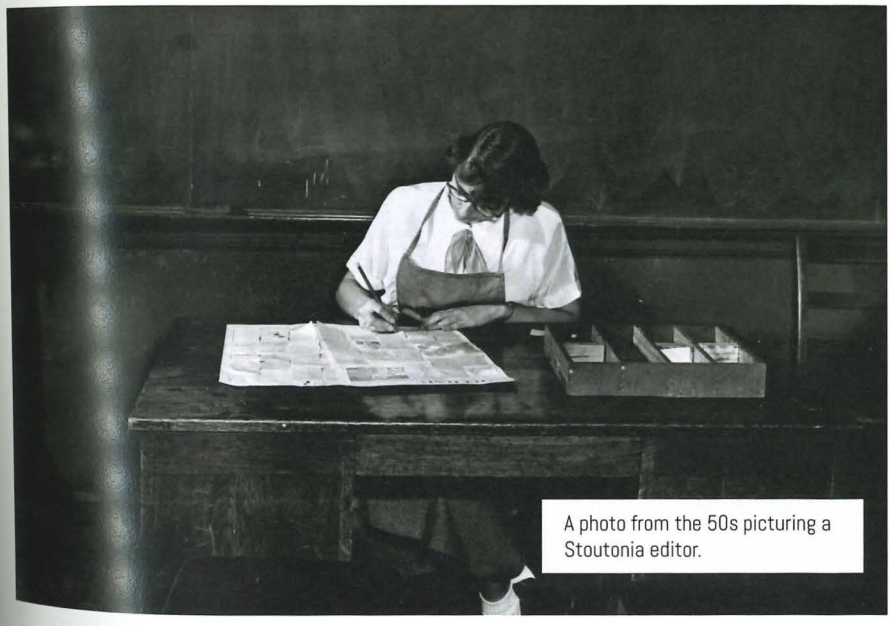
Another archived Stoutonia article from 2001, written by Missy Powell, also reports on strange things going on at JTC. This one told of some bold residents who decided to confront the spirits that they encountered there head-on. The group of students attempted to establish a dialogue with the ghost using a Ouija board, and they claimed that they were successful, and that the ghost was benevolent in temperament.

A few years ago, a student made a documentary on the haunting of JTC. It focuses on students' firsthand paranormal experiences, and they reported hearing heavy footsteps in their dorms, disembodied voices in the hallways, objects moving on their own and numerous other telltale signs of a spirit.

Supernatural encounters aren't limited to those areas though.

A photo from 1935 that has both Bowman and Harvey Hall pictured.

UW-STOUT ARCHIVES/CONTRIBUTED



A photo from the 50s picturing a Stoutonia editor.

UW-STOUT ARCHIVES/CONTRIBUTED

Interestingly, volunteers who agreed to share their story for the sake of this article reported their personal experiences in other places on campus that were not mentioned in the passing rumors.

As per the volunteers' wishes, they will remain anonymous, so their names will not be shared for the sake of protecting their identities.

One interviewee recounted her experience in Fryklund Hall. She was getting some work done there on a weekend, and, as far as she could tell, she was the only one on that floor. While she was working, she heard loud knocks on the window between the classroom and the hallway, and when she turned around to see who it was, no one was there. She described the experience as startling.

Another interviewee talked about one of her close friend's experience. At the time, both the interviewee and her friend were residents of South Hall, and her friend was pulling an all-nighter in order to finish some homework in the basement kitchen of the building. As she was working, she noticed a girl in a white dress standing near the back and staring at her. The girl made no attempt to move, so she did not let her interrupt her work. She then needed to quickly grab something for her assignment, so she left to grab it. When she came back, the girl was gone without a trace.

The interviewee finished her story with a summarizing phrase. "South Hall has some… vibes to it".

So, is Stout really haunted? Only further research would be able to answer that, but of one thing we can be sure: urban legends and stories of hauntings and supernatural activity here at Stout will continue to be passed down from generation to generation of students for years to come. •

RESEARCH IN THE ROTUNDA

BO FRYE

RESEARCH IN THE ROTUNDA PARTICIPANTS/CONTRIBUTED

On March 9th, six of Stout's own went to present their own research in front of legislators, state leaders, UW alumni, and others. Logan Willits, Laney Kaneski, Grayson LaCombe, Dylan Nielson, Ron Barutha, and DJ Walker went to the Capitol Building in Madison to take part in the annual Research in the Rotunda event.

Research in the Rotunda is held every year as a part of the University of Wisconsin School System to promote undergraduate research. This event "to support Wisconsin students and faculty members who contribute to the state's strong economic future." The UW School System is nationally recognized for its work in promoting undergraduate research. The Research in the Rotunda event was canceled last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic so this year everyone was even more excited to share their research.

The ORSP (Office of Research and Sponsored Programs) offers this special opportunity to research students to "celebrate research every day across our campus." OSRP also publishes the JSR (Journal of Student Research) which is another great way to see undergraduate research that is being done here at UW-Stout. The 2021 version of JSR is on the OSRP website and the 2022 version will be coming out soon.

Logan Willitis presented his research on how effective federal funding is in the Wisconsin K-12 education system titled "The effects of Title 3 Funding on Senior Students' College Attainment." Logan is a senior in the Applied Social Science program at Stout with a concentration in Economics and minors in both GIS and Spanish. He is looking to pursue work either in the education technology or policy-making fields.

"Specifically, I looked at how Title 3 funding influences senior students' ability to attend college," says Logan, "I found that an increase in Title 3 funding has a small, positive effect on a senior's ability to attend a college; however, more work should look at how efficiently school districts are allocating these federal funds."

Laney Kaneski and Grayson LaCombe presented the research

for their group, titled "titled "Updating Residential Building Codes to Allow for a Carbon Free Future" Sawyer Tealey and Daniel Horist also worked on this research project, but were unable to attend the Research in the Rotunda Event. Laney and Grayson are both graduating in May, Laney with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and Grayson with a dual degree in Mechanical Engineering and Applied Science.

"Our research focused on a simulated residential home based in Menomonie, WI, and it's carbon output based on its build design. We completed several simulations (using MATLAB & Simulink) starting with a residence design to meet the minimum Wisconsin building codes. Then modified the building's thermal envelope to decrease the carbon output by 40%. We found that this goal was easily achievable with minimal modifications, the modification with the greatest effect was by installing an insulated subfloor to the home." -Laney Kaneski

Dylan Nielson, a junior in the Applied Social Science program, presented his research titled "Coping with COVID: A Phenomenological Study of Students with Mental Health Issues" Nielson tackled his main research question: "What commonalities exist in the lived experiences of undergraduate students affected by mental health issues throughout the COVID-19 pandemic?" He identified themes of lack of social connection and companionship as well as loneliness.

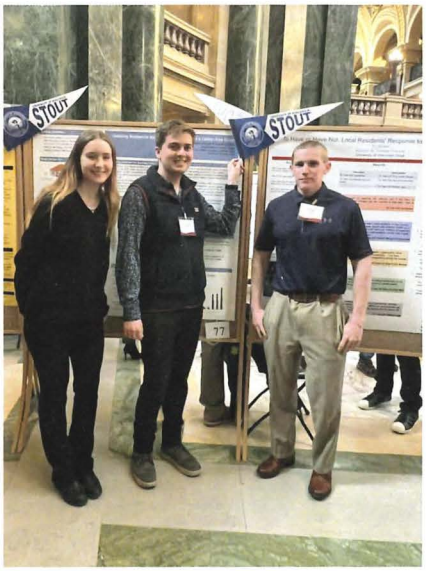
DJ Walker also presented research about COVID. Walker's research focused on the COVID-19 Vaccine and was titled "To Have or Have Not: Local Residents' Response to the COVID-19 Vaccine" Walker is in the Applied Social Science major, the Army ROTC, and is looking into politics and constitutional law for his future.

Last but not least, Ron Barutha presented his research titled "Highways: Lifeline of the Economy" Barutha took a look into the amount of money the federal and state governments spent on Wisconsin highways and found the economic return of the highway system.

These six students shared their hard work and research findings with many state leaders and legislators as well as other UW alumni and news stations that were at the event. Channel3000 and WKOW out of Madison both ran a feature story on their news programs. You can go watch their stories to see some familiar faces.•

PARTICIPANTS/CONTRIBUTED

PARTICIPANTS/CONTRIBUTED



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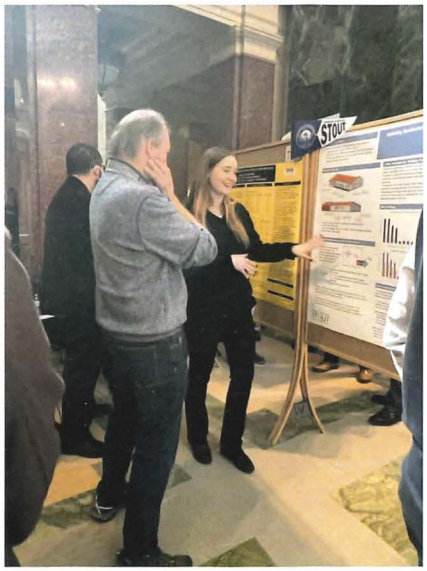


PARTICIPANTS/CONTRIBUTED

A MURAL IS COMING TO THE APPLIED ARTS BUILDING!

GRACYN LEUKAM

Mural location; outside the loading dock of the Applied Arts building.

DR.CYNTHIA BLAND/CONTRIBUTED

> **"Currently, our building looks like an ode to a Brutalist designer's love of cement, and of course, we all love Le Corbusier... But wouldn't it be grand if our School of Art and Design (SOAD) building looked more like an art building? said Bland."**

Dr. Cynthia Bland, professor in the Art and Art History Department at the University of Wisconsin-Stout, has officially jump-started Stout's first ever mural project. She said that the idea has been tossed around for a decade, but due to the size of the project, it has been continuously postponed. Until now!

Bland, along with Wayde Lambrigsten, owner of "Vintage Sign Shop" in Menomonie (and former Stout grad in Graphic Design), will be co-teaching a summer course called "Graffiti and Street Art." They will be painting a mural on the 4 concrete panels on the east side of the loading dock as a portion of the class.

"Currently, our building looks like an ode to a Brutalist designer's love of cement, and of course, we all love Le Corbusier... But wouldn't it be grand if our School of Art and Design (SOAD) building looked more like an art building?" said Bland.

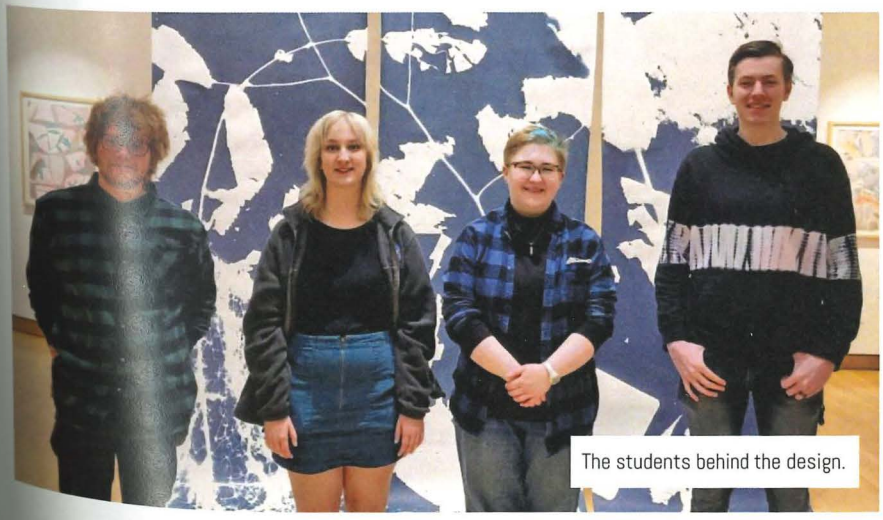
The course will begin with art history lectures on graffiti, street, and mural artists, and then the class will visit Wade's shop for some hands-on lessons in mural making. The course will run from May 16th through June 5th.

At the beginning of the spring semester, Bland and Lambrigsten sent out a request for proposals, inviting more than 900 SOAD students to submit their mural designs. The vision for the design was to showcase the many SOAD majors and minors, as well as the Motion Capture Studio, and art history.

Bland states, "I really enjoy the chronology of the design, starting off with Prehistoric Art in the first panel, and moving forward in time to technology. The piano keys also create a visual link from one panel to the next, and there's a cello center stage—a nod to our Performing Arts minor."

DR.CYNTHIA BLAND/CONTRIBUTED

Mockup of the winning mural design.



DR.CYNTHIA BLAND/CONTRIBUTED

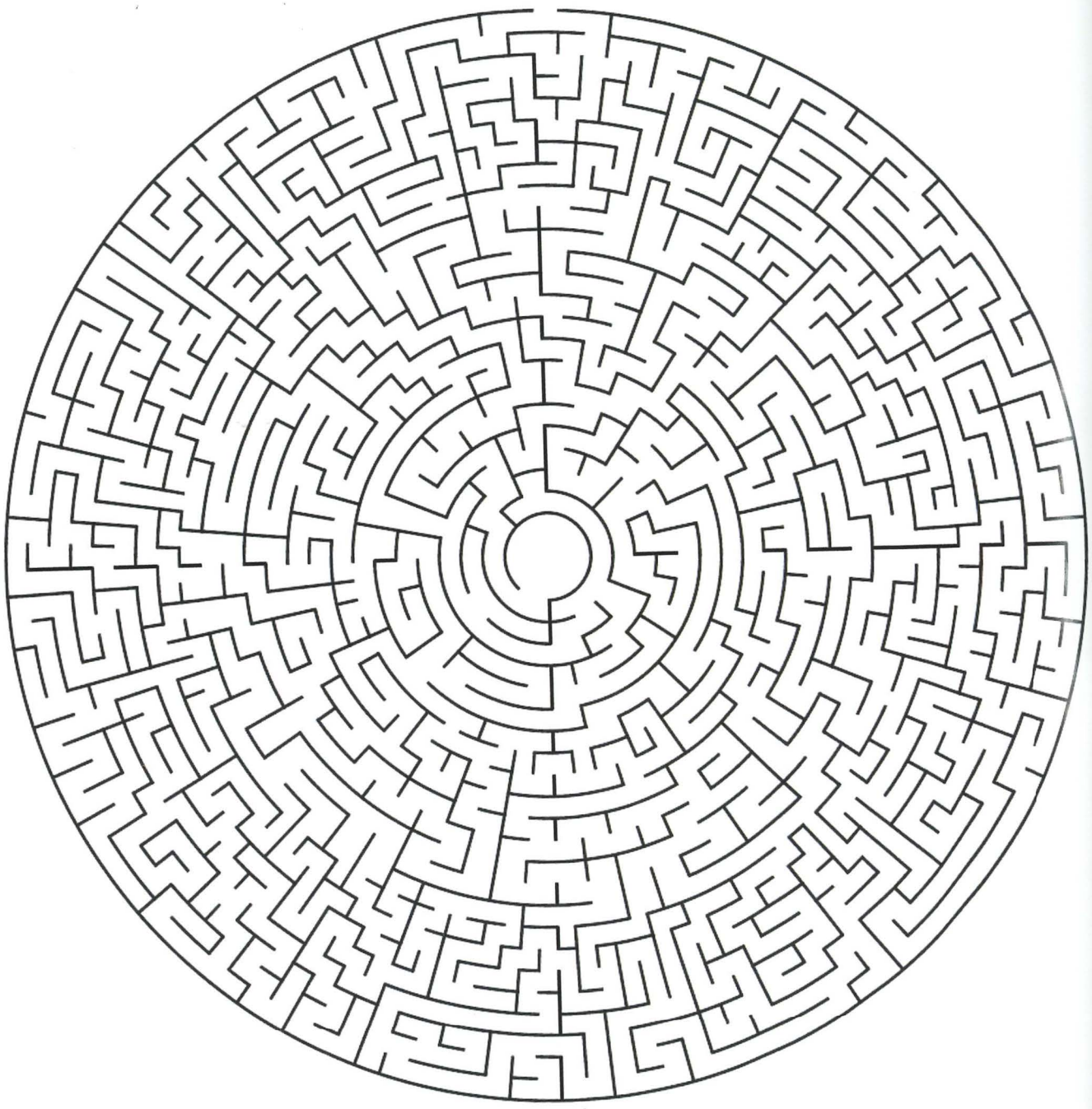
The students behind the design.

The final mural design was created by student designers Jack Gilbert, Amelia Moschkau, Bree Marconnet, and Tommy Slane.

"With the final draft of all of our sketches put together, all the assets had a more uniform style to them," Gilbert said. "Overall, I think all of us worked extremely well together. I was really glad I got to work with this group, and I'm extremely excited for it to get painted this summer."

The students were asked to include an Easter egg as well. If you look closely, you should be able to spot a little blue devil hidden somewhere on the mural. The mural will be unveiled at a community event on June 2nd. There will be food and beverages to celebrate. •

START



Summer Is Almost Here!

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SUMMER
GRADES
PROFESSORS
GRADUATION
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BEACH
SUN
WEATHER
SNACKS
PICNIC
CONCERTS
HOMETOWN
ABROAD
COURSES
BASEBALL
BOATING
LAKES
CABINS
FRIENDS
FIREWORKS
GRILLING
SURFING
MOSQUITOS
HIKING
SWIMMING
CAMPING
KAYAKING
FLOWERS
POPSICLE
SWIMSUIT
WATERMELON
STRAWBERRY
DRINKS
SHOPPING
BACKPACK
WATERPARK
TOWEL
GARDENING
SURFBOARD
SHELL
LEMONADE
TAN
SANDCASTLE
FLOAT

I SPY

ISABEL ROBERTS

A DOG WITH SPOTS

A PIECE OF CHEESE

THE LETTER M

A WHITE SHELL

THE WORD QUARTZ

THE NUMBER 6 (NOT ON THE CLOCK)

A MAGENTA BINDER CLIP

A DAISY

A BLACK BUTTON

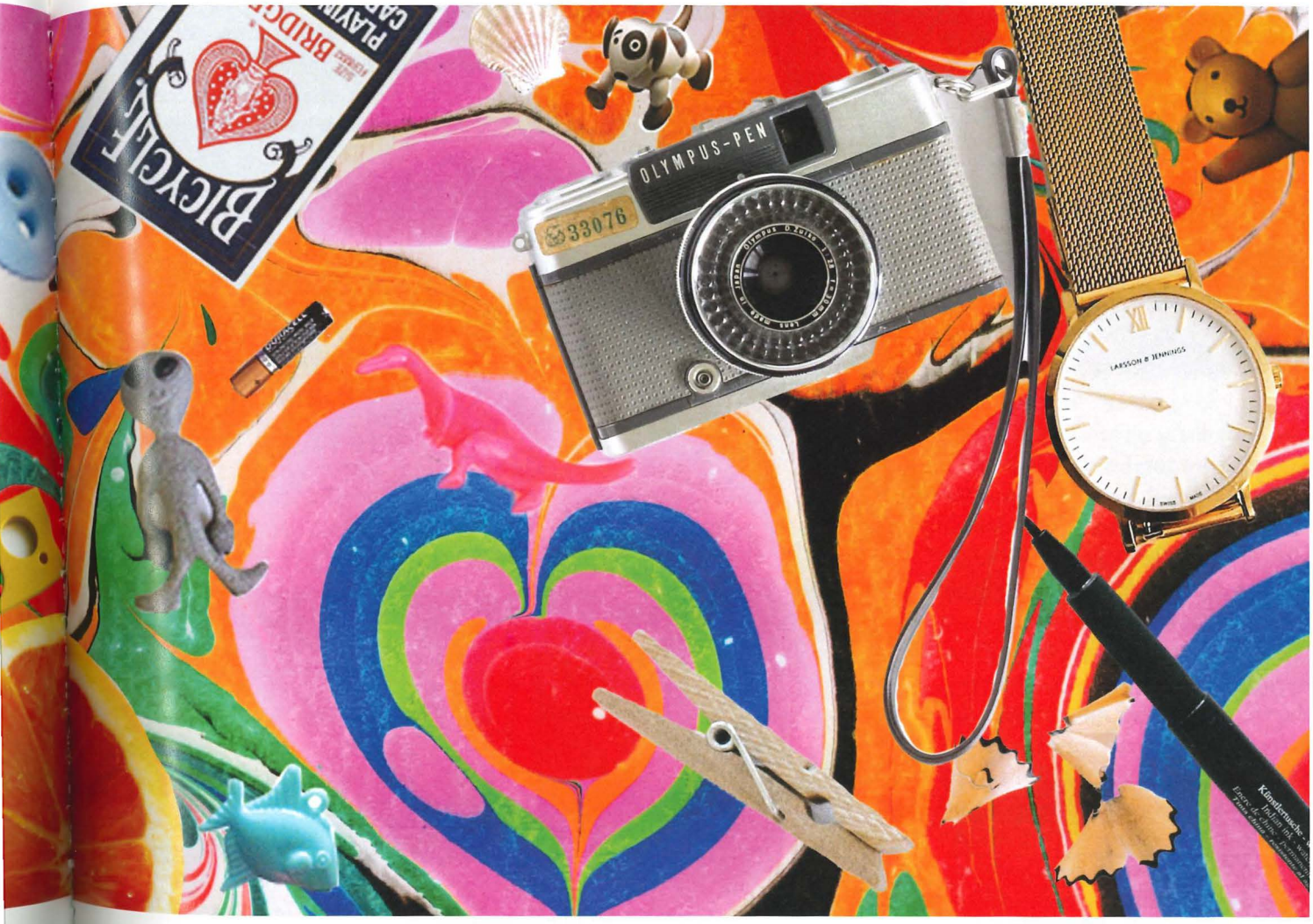
A BEAR

THE NUMBER 400

A PINK DINOSAUR

A BLUE FISH

THE WORD PEN



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YETI ULTIMATE FRISBEE CLUB

CHRISTIAN RODIGUEZ

CARSON KOEHNEN/STOUTONIA

CARSON KOEHNEN/STOUTONIA

Looking for a great new club to get involved in? The Yeti Ultimate Frisbee team is actively looking for more players! Ultimate frisbee is the only D-1 club team that competes against larger schools in the Midwest.

Yeti's former President, Theo Axtell-Adams, is graduating therefore, passing the Presidential torch to Sophomore Christian Rodriguez. First time President Rodriguez, plans to get more people involved in the sport. Ultimate frisbee has been growing nationwide with over 3 million players across the country.

For those unaware how to play, Ultimate frisbee is a non contact sport played with seven players from each team on the field at once . The game is normally played on a soccer or football field. The playing field is normally 70 yards long by 40 yards wide with two two foot endzones. The player with the frisbee cannot move, while the other players try to get open to advance the frisbee. Once the player catches the frisbee they cannot move, and they try to advance the frisbee yet again to an open teammate. If the frisbee is blocked, dropped, or out of bounds the frisbee changes possession to the other team. The object is to score the most points by catching the frisbee in the respected endzone.

Currently there are upwards of 25 men and women and the team. The team has the equipment to supply a Women's team, but not enough players. The sport can be played with both Men and Women. Right now they all play together, although if more Women join the possibility of a Women's team is more likely.

Newly appointed President Rodriguez and returning players look to change the culture of the team by holding team bonding events, practices, scrimmages, and tournaments in the future. The team will not compete in any tournaments this Spring, but has plans for tournament play in the Fall. The team also has plans for out of state Tournaments next spring, one of which in Florida.

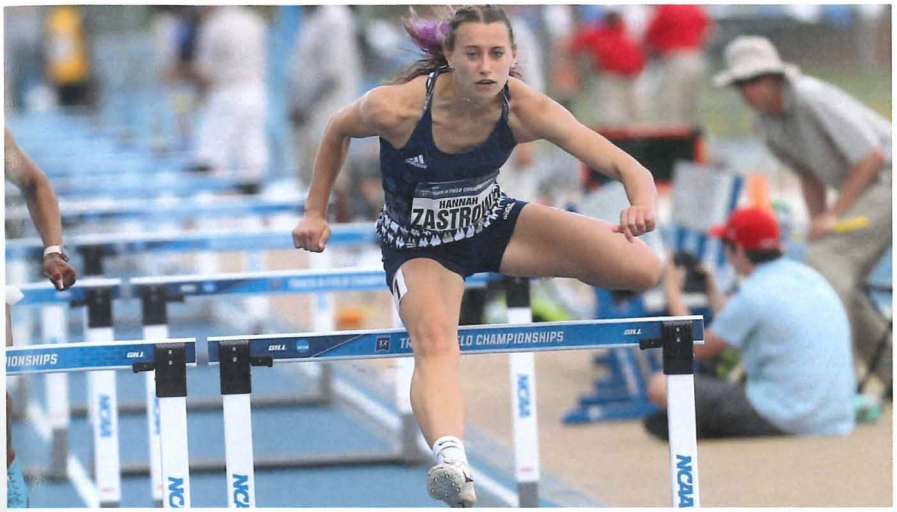
"Last year the club was more for fun. It seemed like we didn't take things too seriously, which is fine. I understand it's a club. But, if we want to be good at Ultimate, which our team has the potential, then we have to commit to practice and to each other, and that;s the kind of culture we are trying to build."•

CARSON KOEHNEN/STOUTONIA

ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT: HANNAH ZASTROW

CHRISTIAN RODIGUEZ

The 2022 track season has been nothing short of amazing for All-American track athlete Hannah Zastrow. Coming off a troubling offseason made up of a hamstring injury, a sprained ankle, and illness, Hannah still managed to break records, (including her own), earning her third All-American title.



HANNAH ZASTROW/CONTRIBUTED

HANNAH ZASTROW/CONTRIBUTED

HANNAH ZASTROW/CONTRIBUTED

Which track events are you in?

Hannah runs the 60 and 100 meter hurdles, currently holding the record for both events! Hannah also participates in High Jump.

How long have you been running track?

Hannah started running track in 6th grade! Coming up on 8 years.

Favorite track memory?

Breaking the 100 meter hurdle record."I thought it wasn't a great run for me. It felt kinda like an off day, so I was surprised to find out I actually broke the record."

Favorite track accomplishment?

Achieving three All-American honors within her Freshman and Sophomore year.

What records do you hold?

Hannah holds the 60 meter hurdle school record with a time of 8.61 seconds. The previous record was 8.99 seconds which she originally beat with a time of 8.95 seconds. She later broke her own record with a time of 8.61 seconds where the record still stands today. Hannah also holds the record for 100 meter hurdles. The previous record was 14.50 seconds. She has since broken the record multiple times, the fastest and record time being 14.23 seconds.

What is your favorite part of the track team?

"I like being able to watch and cheer on my teammates competing in different events. Each event requires different skills and it's so exciting watching them succeed in their events. I also enjoy the multitude of people I get to meet through track."

What is your favorite event?

100 meter hurdles.

CARSON KOEHNEN/STOUTONIA

DANCE AT STOUT

ISABEL JAROSZ

ISABEL JAROSZ/CONTRIBUTED

Dancing is a great way to exercise, make friends, and express your creativity - but not a lot of students know about the many opportunities for dance lovers here at Stout to continue their passion from previous years or learn a new hobby.

The Blue Devils Dance Team is the school's audition-based dance team performing various styles, such as jazz, pom and hip-hop. BDDT currently has seven members, two student captains and for the first time in many years, a head coach, Sam Ziwicki, who graduated from Stout in May 2021 and now works as an event planner for the Minnesota Vikings. She says, "I wanted to coach the Blue Devils Dance Team because I have a great passion for this program after being a dedicated member during my years in school. After being a two-year captain, I learned firsthand that it's tough to run a whole team of dancers, work with the athletic department, coordinate practices and performances, and be a full-time student. I truly felt it was time for this captain led program to have a true, dedicated leader for support and a push to the highest potential of success!"

BDDT performs at home football and basketball games, as well as traveling across the state and country for competitions. Sophomore member Emily Brenner says, "I love learning new choreography and football games. I'm most excited to grow the team for this next season and hopefully go to nationals next year!" At games, they perform pom and hip-hop routines to hype up the crowd during halftime, and even have collaborated with the UW-Stout Cheer and Stunt Team and school mascot, Blaze, to create exciting performances.

This January, they held the first annual Stout Dance Show in the Johnson Fieldhouse where they invited college, high school, and studio dancers to participate. The Blue Devils dancers got to introduce themselves and perform several routines, even a fun "friend" dance, where students who don't normally dance got to perform for the audience as well.

Several clinics each year are held by BDDT for younger kids in the community, and dancers all over the Midwest. In October, girls ages five to twelve got to learn a fun Halloween dance with BDDT members and perform at a football game. This Winter, during the off-season of performances, they held a clinic where high school and college aged dancers could prepare to audition for the team by meeting the girls, learning routines, and showing off skills. Freshman member Cami Bertossi says, "My favorite parts are the off season practices. I really like learning new combos, techniques, and styles".

Next year, through tons of fundraisers and lots of hard work at practice, they hope to compete in Universal Dance Association nationals in Orlando,

ISABEL JAROSZ/CONTRIBUTED

Florida again! Like many other sports, COVID-19 put a halt to dance performances and it has been a challenge to return to normal. With auditions quickly approaching in April, Sam says, "We're already looking to have a huge team — and that excites me a lot! I really hope to take this team to the big nationals' stage in an upcoming season, and I think 2023 could be that year".

Another way to get involved with dance at Stout is by joining the Swing Club. Swing dancing became popular at social events with jazz music in the 1920's to 1940's, but is still thriving at our school! Swing Club President Ty Weiss says, "Here at Stout, we focus a majority on West Coast Swing, giving us high energy paired with the fun jazzy songs. We go over everything from the basics to a night of aerials that includes flips, lifts, & fancy dips! We also have special nights where we learn other dance styles including Latin dances like Salsa, Merengue, Tango and classic ballroom dances like Waltz and Foxtrot! The nights where we learn special dances, we also bring in guest instructors!"

Twice a semester, they perform big group dances. They include games, food, and even a live band for music. Ty says, "Currently we do a large dance for Halloween, Christmas, Valentine's day, & graduation. Outside of Stout there are opportunities to go social dancing! Plenty of members in the past have gotten together in groups to go to dance nights in the Twin Cities to show off and let loose!"

Anyone can attend Swing Club practices and meetings, which take place every Wednesday night at 7:30 in the beautiful Memorial Student Center ballrooms. The club provides a casual and fun environment to relieve stress from school, and no partner or prior dance experience is necessary to join.

Dancing is a great way to have fun while exercising, improve confidence, and make friends in the community. Even if dance isn't your thing, there are so many talented dancers here at UW-Stout, make sure to catch a performance or two of the different groups on campus!•

LOCAL SPIDERS FEELING UNAPPRECIATED

ANDREW KNEEN

UW-STOUT ARCHIVES/CONTRIBUTED

Many local pedestrians have noticed the abnormal abundance of spiders while walking around Menomonie, but few have stopped to appreciate all they have done for us these past few months. What have they done for us you may ask? The endeavors of the spiders have kept the mosquito population in check. Our highly detailed and scientific study found that human mosquito bites decreased by nearly 984.41% this February compared to June of 2021. However, local spiders just aren't feeling the love from the human community.

Seven-legs Spindleton, a local father, organizer, and web developer among the spider population was asked his thoughts on the matter. "It's not easy, all this bug-catching, web development, and evading predators. It sure would help ease the psychological burden if we got a "thank you" or a "wow, nice web" every once in a while, from the human population. Instead, we get our hard work broomed away when we build it, and when we dare pay a visit, we get thrown out, or worse, have an attempt made on our life. We aren't asking for paparazzi, awards, and praise, we are humble folks, we put our pants on four legs at a time like anyone else. It's always "How did a spider get in here?" and never "How is the spider?" Arachnophobia is a real and global problem that harms the mutually beneficial relationship between humans and spiders. In Iran, for instance, nearly everyone is afraid of spiders, but Iraq no phobia. If I think about all the unfairness too long, it'll drive me up the wall and across the ceiling"

We asked Seven-legs what else the local spiders enjoy doing. His answer may surprise you; "We really enjoy watching or reading Spider-Man! We think it's one step toward healing human-spider relations, although the role of the spider is often an undertone rather than an emphasis. What many fans and viewers don't know about Spider-Man is some of his more hidden abilities. For instance, he knows exactly how many spiders there are on earth at any given time, we refer to it as his Spider-Census. He also has a fantastic comeback for everything, with great power comes great response-ability. Other than that, we do a little trolling on the web, convincing people that we crawl into their mouths while sleeping. Although it's a cruel joke, it really gets a reaction from some."

"This summer is looking to be a big one for mosquitos" we said, "is there a consensus among the spider community for dealing with this?" Seven legs told us; "The under-appreciation and attacks on our lives and work has damaged morale and population, but we still plan to hang around catching as many as we can. We created a social-distancing strategy to avoid hairy encounters with humans, but some are more-less unavoidable. Speaking of social distancing, we have been minimally affected by the COVID-19 pandemic considering we are naturally well-suited to deal with any airborne bugs going around. Given some regions of the Midwest choosing to limit the mosquito population chemically, we have elected to attempt diversification of our careers. We started making pants, but the flies kept getting stuck. We are looking into mercenary work as we see humans at war talking about establishing a no-fly zone, and we have centuries of experience establishing those."

Mr. Spindleton told us a bit about his own life; "Back when I was just starting out in my web development career, they had me debugging code. Around this time, I met my wife on the web. I told her that all my eyes were on her, she rolled at least half of her eyes, but she agreed to a date. I wanted to start on the very best of my eight feet, so we went to the fanciest mosquito pond I knew over in Webster. We crashed a local mosquito party, they thought we were quite the bzzz kills. After that we were arm in arm in arm in..." Mr. Spindleton then had to excuse himself as he got a phone call from Mrs. Spindleton informing him that she had spun out while changing the song on spot-a-fly and found herself in a sticky tangle of a situation. Luckily, none of their 416 arach-kids were out for a spin with her.

The kindest thanks we can offer our many-legged friends is offering them the proverbial boot rather than the bottom of the physical one. •

DO THE GIRL SCOUTS SUPPORT CHILD LABOR?

TREYTON ACKERMAN

BRODY PIERCE/STOUTONIA

The Girl Scout cookie stand outside of the Memorial Student Center was raging with controversy on the night of February 29th. As I was walking up to the MSC, I saw a man with a mullet wearing a poorly fitted suit flailing his arms around in a frustrated manner at a girl scout stand, so I decided to see what it was all about.

After loudly proclaiming that he was a business administration student, a future CEO, and that he knows what he's talking about, he told the two middle school aged girls that sitting down while on the job is lazy and equates to a bad work ethic, and that they will never make it out of retail with that attitude.

It then escalated when he tried to purchase two boxes of thin mints, at five dollars a piece. Outraged at the price, he started to call them communists, but his mood completely turned around when they offered him a 2 for 10 deal.

"Pleasure doing business with you," he said as he shook their hands and walked away with his thin mints in hand, delighted to be able to take advantage of such a bargain.

After he left, it was time to ask the hard hitting questions. "Why did they change the name from samoas to caramel delites?"

"I don't know," one of the scouts said.

I then asked the girl scouts' thoughts on how palm oil, one of our most environmentally destructive ingredients to produce due to deforestation (sometimes involving child labor), is used in their cookies, and they had this to say.

"I don't really care. I just want to get a scooter," one remarked.

"Dude, you've been here for like 2 hours, aren't you gonna leave or something?"

"So you support child labor?" I asked, which was met with a confused response.

Then, one of the girls' fathers, who was not a girl scout, asked me to leave. Since he had no jurisdiction, I refused.

They clearly didn't get the point, so I explained to them yet again how problematic palm oil and palm oil products are.

I was later "escorted" from the scene by a "law enforcement officer" on grounds of "harassment", allegedly

Apparently seeking justice for our planet's rainforests through journalism is a crime.

If you see your local girl scouts, support them and buy soon, as they're only selling cookies for a few more weeks.

More information to support the Girl Scouts can be found here: https://www.girlscouts.org/en/support-us.html

More information if you don't want to support the Girl Scouts can be found here: https://girlscoutswhynot.com/

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